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N.Y. Writer Blasts U.S. Reds In Shire

By JOHN MAHONEY

WOODSTOCK — Socialism, communism, Russia, Red China, the Central Intelligence Agency, trade unionism and U.S. foreign policy felt the wrath of fiery syndicated columnist Victor Riesel here last night.

Riesel, blinded in an acid attack in 1956 following years of attacking organized crime through his column, was the featured speaker at the 44th annual meeting of the Associated Industries of Vermont, held here Thursday.

He said Khrushchev's demise did not come as a "tremendous surprise" and that it was "perfectly obvious" that the United States had been propping Khrushchev up for several years.

Riesel, bouncing up and down on the balls of his feet and alternating his delivery between highly-emotional tirades and almost-unheard asides, said the U.S. should have "hit in Hungary a we did in Lebanon" but "now it's too late."

He claimed Russia was a "starving" and that America was keeping them alive and the 300 people in the audience sat there and looked at him intently. It was silent in the room and the crowd took in his every word.

Riesel stood in back of the speaker's stand with smoke-screen glasses covering his eyes and, accompanied by his energies with a continuous clapping of his hands, said:

the U.S. has "no intelligence operations. I charge it and I can prove it. We don't know what is happening in the Kremlin or in China."

On FBI

He said intelligence operations should be handed over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and J. Edgar Hoover — "the country owes so much to him" — and that the CIA should be shaken up.

A name dropper of this first magnitude — he calls everybody his good friend — he made the prediction that if we "put the screws on once and don't sell to the communists" that we'd see a "disintegration of the communist block."

"We are told," he rasped, "that those of us who are anti-communists are Neanderthals. I only hope the next administration will deal realistically with the enemy."

Riesel lashed out at people whom he said ran the U.S. down in foreign countries. "The time has come for the United States government to stop sending people abroad who apologize for us." The businessmen applauded furiously.

He viewed labor's victory in England as dangerous and said that "socialists are going to lead us down the path of totalitarianism as they always have." He said that the socialistic New Democratic Party in Canada already has polled over

one million votes and they are trade unionism oriented.

Infiltrated

Riesel said a lot of trade unions were infiltrated by communists and that labor was becoming the third force in politics. "He who has influence survives", he said.

He foresees Khrushchev's fall from power as a sure sign that the Sino-Soviet rift will be healed and that the free world can expect new troubles from a united communist front.

Questioned about the South Viet Nam situation, he said "we are not going to give up southwest Asia if we have to put a million men in there."

He challenged the state's business leaders to give leadership and labor would follow them. "Humanity follows a man, not a machine." The applause was long and loud. Riesel's flaming oratory overshadowed the lackluster debate between the gubernatorial candidates held earlier in the day.

Small Crowd

Gov. Philip Hoff and Lt. Gov. Ralph Foote, competing with the seventh game of the world series, spoke to a small crowd.

Hoff said he did not claim all the credit for the accomplishments which happened during the past two years and then went on to list them. He then listed the defeats of his tenure and said he "resented them."

He said he preferred mandatory redistricting in the school situation but would have accepted a voluntary plan. "Now it's on the GOP platform." He also mentioned the legislative council, judiciary reform, anti-pollution and development funds for promotional purposes.

He tied most of them to the present GOP platform.

Hoff said that he feels the solution to many of the town's problems lies in approaching them on a regional basis so that power would not be "focalized in Montpelier."

"I'm not going to allow a tradition to stop the solution of a problem and I'm not going to be hamstrung by traditions." He said they were only guides and called for new traditions.

Hard to Answer

Foote gave a rather vague, general talk and said that the state should stay out of business. No one in the room seemed to know what he meant. Hoff said his remarks were "so general I find it hard to rebut them."

The lieutenant governor said the 1.6 million scheduled for state aid to education was "sufficient" and that more would have been "a waste of resources." He further said the towns were "poorly" geared to take advantage of more money at the time the bill was passed.

Emory H. Rudy of the Gallup Poll Institute said that the Republican Party was a declining party and that a majority of Americans feel that the Democratic Party is best suited to lead, especially in the two key issues of peace and prosperity.

President Johnson's image is considerably brighter than Senator Goldwater's when it comes to ability and experience according to the pollster. He said that Johnson had the widest lead in a presidential race since "FDR in 1936."

He said the gap between the two is "a big one" and that Goldwater can gain but the

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